



# daily news bulletin

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## 55 ARABS ARRESTED IN GAZA STRIP

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 12 (JTA)--The army disclosed today the arrests of 55 Arabs in the Gaza Strip who have been implicated in acts of violence, weapons thefts and sabotage plots. The arrests, carried out during the past two weeks, broke up four terrorist cells. Three were linked to El Fatah and one to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an army communique said.

The PFLP group and one Fatah cell consisted of 39 persons who confessed to sabotage in the Gaza Strip. Other acts attributed to them include throwing Molotov cocktails at a school, stealing weapons and circulating inflammatory propaganda leaflets. A number of the detainees had worked in a Tel Aviv factory and stole weapons from the security guard there. They failed later in an attempt to steal weapons from a soldier, the communique reported.

One terrorist cell consisting of seven persons was found in possession of weapons and explosives and was conducting training in the use of arms and the manufacture of homemade bombs. They are also charged with gathering information for the purpose of planning acts of sabotage. Nine members of another cell confessed to firing shots at a truck. They were in possession of weapons at the time of their arrest. The arrests were the first mass round-up of terrorists in the Gaza Strip in some time. The Strip, once a hotbed of terrorist activity has been relatively quiet during the past few years.

Meanwhile, a military court judge here has extended the detention period of five Palestinian Arabs who landed on the Tel Aviv beach in a motorboat during Rosh Hashanah last month. Investigators are still checking out their story that they escaped from Egypt to avoid being recruited by the PLO to fight in Lebanon.

A Ramleh magistrate has issued a further 15-day detention order against Ludvina Jansen, a 23-year-old Dutch woman arrested at Ben Gurion Airport last month on suspicion of being a terrorist operative. Jansen reportedly confessed that she was on an intelligence gathering mission in connection with the planned hijacking of an Air France plane at Ben Gurion Airport. She told reporters in court that she had cooperated with the police on the understanding that she would be freed.

## IDENTIFICATION OF ARMS U.S. IS TO GIVE ISRAEL TERMED INACCURATE, SPECULATIVE BY U.S., ISRAEL SOURCES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Reports on the kinds of new military equipment Israel is to receive under a decision President Ford disclosed yesterday he has made, were characterized today by a U.S. official as "speculative" and by an Israeli source as "incorrect."

Their comments came in reference to "well placed Congressional sources, familiar with Israel's requests" which were given as the authority for one widely published report that items approved for Israel include laser-guided bombs

and armed helicopter gunships equipped with anti-tank missiles not previously approved for sale; night-fighting equipment Israel does not now have; an ultra modern communications and radar equipment.

In addition, the "Congressional sources" were reported to have said delivery is to be speeded to Israel of M-60 heavy tanks, self-propelled artillery, armed personnel carriers, and new models of guided anti-tank missiles and bombs.

## Report Described As Nonsense

Most of the "Congressional report" is "utter nonsense," the Israeli said. "Some of the items were delivered a year ago." Only a handful of people know what is on the list, he said, noting Congress is not in session.

The list will not be made officially known for at least three months since it first must be presented to Congress which must approve military sales of more than \$25 million and any amount of special equipment. The present Congress will not meet again and the 95th Congress convenes in January.

No information apparently has been provided to Congress on the latest Presidential decision, according to both the Israelis and Americans. "Each request from Israel, as from any other country, and each item requested has a life of its own," the American official pointed out. "This means the quantity and delivery time are individually reached and Congress has to confirm certain agreements."

Pershing surface-to-surface missiles, which can be equipped with nuclear warheads, were emphatically ruled out on any American list, the White House said yesterday in disclosing the decision. No mention was made, however, of the F-16 fighter aircraft which Israel was reported seeking months ago.

## FORD: NO IMPOSED SOLUTION, NO ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS IN MIDEAST

Addresses Some 3000 People At Yeshiva

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--President Ford pledged today to an audience of about 3000 people, mostly Jews, that there will be "no imposed solution and no one-sided concessions" in the Middle East, that his Administration will continue to support a strong Israel and that he would personally continue to raise "again and again" the issue of Soviet Jewry at meetings with Soviet leaders.

Ford spoke outside the Joel Braverman High School of the Yeshiva of Flatbush in the heart of the heavily Jewish-populated Midwood section of Brooklyn. Following his 10-minute address, the President visited the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Yeshiva and conferred with a group of Jewish leaders inside the building. That meeting was closed to the press and there was no briefing given reporters afterwards. (See related story.)

The crowd was polite but not notably enthusiastic and gave the President only moderate applause. Security measures were strict. Barriers

surrounded the high school building and heavy concentrations of uniformed police were present in the surrounding streets hours before Ford's motorcade arrived.

### Loud Heckling Erupts

There were no incidents but loud heckling erupted during the President's brief address from members of the Jewish Defense League and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. JDLers carried signs reading, "Ford Must Go" and others demanding the dismissal of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the preservation of Israel's hold on the occupied territories.

SSSJ members carried signs declaring, "Detente With Honor--Save Soviet Jewry" and "Boycott Ford." Another group carried signs identifying themselves as "Polish Jews For Carter." The latter was apparently a reference to Ford's statement during his foreign policy debate with Democratic Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter last week that Poland and other Eastern European countries were not under Soviet domination.

### Israel's Future Brighter Now

The President declared that "Israel's strength enhances the prospects of peace" in the Middle East and claimed that Israel's future is "brighter" now than before he became President. He referred to Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin as "my personal friend" and cited recent remarks by Rabin that Israeli-U.S. relations have never been better. He pledged that his Administration will continue to support and fight for Israel at the United Nations and would oppose any attempt to oust Israel from the world organization.

Ford also pledged that the U.S. would fight international terrorism and referred to Israel's "heroic" rescue of hostages at Entebbe Airport in Uganda last July 3. He said he was "proud" to have been the first head of state to praise that operation.

Ford reaffirmed his opposition to the Arab boycott, declaring, "I have not and will not tolerate" discrimination on religious grounds brought into American life. He referred to his order to the Department of Commerce to disclose the names of American companies that, in the future, comply with Arab boycott demands. He described that order as "strong executive action against the boycott."

He said his Administration has been pressing for movement on the issue of the rights of Soviet Jews, noting that he had raised it at his meeting with Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and "I will raise it again and again.... It is immoral for any nation to dominate the religious life of its citizens."

### SPECIAL TO THE JTA

#### FORD DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH 150 JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--President Ford sought to explain to a group of over 150 Jewish community leaders today why his Administration sells arms to Saudi Arabia, what it intends to do to increase the rate of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and how it is combating the Arab boycott. He made his remarks in response to questions from rabbis and lay leaders during a closed-door meeting at the Center for Holocaust Studies of the Yeshiva of Flatbush after addressing about 3000 persons outside the school.

According to an observer at the meeting from which the press was excluded, Ford spoke to an

audience that represented the entire spectrum of the Jewish community in Flatbush, including Hasidic and other Orthodox rabbis and rabbis and members of local Conservative, Reform and Sephardic congregations.

The observer informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that, when asked about the extensive U.S. arms deals with Saudi Arabia, Ford replied that the U.S. was acting "in a responsible way." He declared that "The Ford Administration can sell arms to allies that are Arab nations. We are better served by the U.S. selling them arms than another country selling them arms. By so doing we can control the utilization of such arms since we have the capability of stopping them."

With respect to Soviet Jewry, Ford acknowledged that the rate of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has declined from 35,000 to 12,000 a year and intimated that this was the result of a break-down in communications between Washington and Moscow because of the restrictions imposed by the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson amendments to the Trade Reform Act. "We must do better in terms of Soviet Jewish emigration," Ford stated, according to the observer.

The President affirmed: "As soon as possible I will work with the legislators to change, amend and enact legislation which up till now has caused some problems." He added, "We must strengthen Israel not only with money and arms but also with people who are fully committed to the preservation of Israel and who will do so through their immigration to Israel."

### Will Not Tolerate Oil Embargo

Questioned about a possible future Arab oil boycott, Ford declared, "If there is a boycott I will not tolerate it." But, he added, according to JTA's informant, there will not be another Arab oil embargo because "there will not be another war in the Middle East."

On the subject of the Arab boycott of American firms doing business with Israel, Ford referred to his order last week to the Commerce Department to release, in the future, the names of U.S. companies that comply with Arab boycott demands. He said any violation of his order would result in action and claimed that his Administration is "the only one to have taken positive action in the area of the boycott." Asked why he had not made his order retroactive, Ford replied that he could not change the rules in the middle of the game.

On the subject of peace negotiations, Ford declared that "The PLO will not be a participant in any future conference on peace in the Middle East." He said also there was an international movement toward action against terrorism and that the U.S. was playing a role in that area.

Ford told his audience, which included yeshiva heads, that he was dedicated to aiding non-public schools and to their perpetuation and expansion because competition with public schools was healthy. He said he would do his best, within Constitutional limits, to seek legislation in such areas as tax assistance and tax credits for non-public schools and non-public school parents.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Moslem religious leaders have called this week on UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to send a commission to investigate alleged desecrations of Islamic shrines in the administered territories.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****FORMER INDIAN JEWISH OFFICIAL AND JURIST SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE U.S.**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Whether the United States returns Elijah Ephraim Jhirad to India to face criminal charges as the Indian government is demanding or allow him to remain in this country because he believes he is a target of political vengeance in his native land is now headed for a Presidential decision.

Jhirad, a Judge Advocate General of the Indian Navy for 18 years and a president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in India, came to that crossroad on Oct. 4--Yom Kippur--when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review his appeal to stay the extradition proceedings that he has fought in the federal district and circuit courts in New York for more than four years.

Ordinarily, the Deputy Secretary of State--at present Charles W. Robinson--would determine an issue of extradition. In this case, however, considering the currently cool Indian-U.S. governmental relations and the change in the character of the government in New Delhi towards authoritarianism, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger himself is expected to recommend a decision for President Ford's consideration.

State Department sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the issue has not yet formally reached the Department and, contrary to a report published in media other than JTA, the case is not on the President's desk. "There is no magic date for a decision," a White House aide said, after the case does arrive there.

The formalities of transferring the case from the U.S. courts to the Department of Justice for remanding Jhirad to the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is expected to take place soon. At that point, the question of political asylum for Jhirad enters. Jhirad, 63, has been under \$50,000 bail since India sought an extradition warrant Aug. 9, 1972.

**Allegations By Indian Government**

The New Delhi government alleges that 15 years ago when Jhirad was a co-administrator of India's Naval Prize Fund, he misappropriated money to ineligible recipients. In its extradition suit--which was filed in federal court in New York City four years after charges were brought against Jhirad in India--the Indian government listed 52 allegations but these were narrowed during the legal proceedings to two counts involving rupees to the equivalent of \$1600.

According to the allegations, the Naval Fund totalled \$400,000 in rupees and there is no record of an accounting or audit for the three-year period 1959-1961. The Indian government contends that when Jhirad left India in July, 1966 for stays in Europe, Israel and in America, it was his intention never to return out of fear of prosecution. However, charges were not filed against him in India until more than two years later--in October, 1968.

The extradition case appeared to turn on the question of whether it was Jhirad's intention, when he left India in July, 1966, to return to his native land or whether his departure was for the purposes of attending the World Jewish Congress in Brussels and then take a long delayed vacation in Europe.

The federal court in New York held that while his departure was not for the purpose of avoiding prosecution, the court ruled that the last two

counts were still valid because the statute of limitations still had two weeks to run when Jhirad allegedly decided not to return.

In view of the Supreme Court's refusal to review the case, the defense counsel indicated it would not take further judicial action on the extradition. Jhirad's appeal against extradition was opposed in the Supreme Court by Edwin Steinberg, a New York attorney representing the Indian government. Robert H. Bork, the U.S. Solicitor General, filed a brief that the U.S. government neither supports nor opposes the Jhirad petition against extradition.

**Claims Innocence On All Charges**

Claiming innocence on all charges, Jhirad declares the Indian government is politically motivated against him. It is persisting in its charges, he holds, because of his outspoken defense of Zionism and Israel at a time when the Indian government staunchly supports the Arab bloc, and for his pro-Western anti-Communist views when the Indian government is closely allied with Communist and anti-Western countries.

American friends of Jhirad also contend that a purpose in the Indian government's pressure for extradition is to demonstrate to its political opponents in India or abroad that its long arm is reaching out for its enemies no matter where they may be or the cost entailed to punish them.

These friends also fear that if Jhirad is returned to India, harassment of him there would result in his early demise.

Jhirad, whose counsel is the law firm of Tenzer, Greenblatt, Fallon and Kaplan in New York, contends that two other co-administrators and a secretary were involved in handling the prize fund. These three are in India, it is said, and have not been accused.

The Indian government, it is also said, has never shown proof any money is missing nor ever produced a claimant for that money. The Navy has never made an audit of the fund, named a board of inquiry to examine the charges, nor offered proof of wrongdoing by him, nor sent witnesses to New York to testify against him, the defense claims. The witnesses, according to the defense, were from India's special police establishment. Jhirad has denied destroying any records.

**An Imposing Background**

An Indian patriot with an esteemed reputation, Jhirad was practicing law in Bombay when World War II broke out. He was given command of a 150-foot boat that searched the Arabian Sea for Nazi submarines. In 1946, he was named Judge Advocate General of the Royal Indian Navy, the third highest position in the Indian government. While in that office, he became a specialist in the law of the sea.

Jhirad, who is of the Bnai Israel Jews who came to the Bombay area before the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem more than 1900 years ago, is ardently Jewish. As a student at Bombay University, he organized Jewish students there. In 1937, he visited Palestine at the invitation of the Keren Hayesod. Together with his father, he aided Jewish refugees from Germany and Poland who received asylum in India from the Nazis.

He also introduced programs in India of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT) which still operates schools in Bombay. He was

in Israel from 1967 to mid-1972 when he came to the United States. He and his wife have applied for U.S. citizenship.

Among those supporting Jhirad's cause are Rabbi Harold Gordon, executive vice-president of the New York Board of Rabbis, who has written two letters to President Ford; Rabbi Israel Miller, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who appealed to Undersecretary of State Philip Habib; and Samuel Haber, honorary president of the Joint Distribution Committee, who also has interceded at the White House. Haber worked with Jhirad in India in 1960-62 in setting up a JDC group there.

#### THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN FREEDOM FESTIVAL FOR SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Thousands of New Yorkers celebrated yesterday a Simchat Torah "Festival of Freedom" on the steps of the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan as Soviet Jews prepared to courageously sing and dance in the streets of Moscow.

The festivities here were marked with a Torah procession, "Succah mobiles," colorfully decorated kosher food stalls and dancing to the tunes of Jewish musical bands. The event was sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Participating in the festival were numerous local civic leaders, and Senatorial rivals James L. Buckley and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Congressmen from New York who have been leading the fight in Washington for human rights and freedom for Soviet Jews, spoke of their individual efforts in behalf of "prisoners of conscience" each has adopted.

Lydia Kornfeld, a long-time leading Moscow activist who recently received permission to live in Israel, and Rabbi Shlomo Balter of Congregation Shaare Tzedek gave moving reports on current conditions inside the Soviet Union. Ms. Kornfeld, whose struggle to emigrate to Israel lasted five years, is in the U.S. to tour various Jewish communities under the invitation of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. She was among 40 Jews arrested for activities in March, 1971. Now living in Rehovot, she, her husband and two daughters received their exit permits in February, 1976. Ms. Kornfeld's program in the communities across the United States is being coordinated with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, GNYCSJ chairman, who presided at the festival, said the event served as "an urgent expression of support for Soviet Jews who will celebrate the Simchat Torah holiday at the Moscow Synagogue. He pointed out that only a few days ago the Soviet government arrested a group of Jewish activists for attempting to hold a prayer service on the 35th anniversary of the Nazi massacre of more than 100,000 Jews at Babi Yar, near Kiev.

#### MOBIL OIL CORP. SAYS NO TO ZOA'S SUGGESTION FOR A PUBLIC DEBATE

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, has challenged M. P. Tavoulareas, president of the Mobil Oil Corporation, to a face-to-face public forum before Oct. 21 in New York or Washington to deal with the statements advanced in public ads by the oil firm regarding the Arab boycott. The ZOA leader, in a cable to Tav-

oulareas, said he accepted the Mobil call for "thorough public hearings."

However, in a statement issued by Mobil, the firm said "It is not its intention to inject itself into a debate over the issue of economic boycotts. The sole purpose of its statements has been to try to bring attention of the American public to its interpretation of a particular piece of legislation and to present its analysis of the consequences that would ensue if the legislation were enacted."

The oil firm proposed that Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D,NY) and Sternstein "join with Mobil in selecting a prominent law firm to review the conflicting interpretations of the so-called anti-boycott legislation HR 15377 to determine whose interpretation is correct."

The ZOA, along with other major Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, termed the Mobil ad, which appeared last month in numerous newspapers across the country as an attempt to frighten the American public.

In a related move, the Central Conference of American Rabbis expressed its "disgust" at what it termed Mobil's "outrageous outpouring of lies, distortions and crass appeals for Arab business over national morality." The Reform organization said it is urging "all with whom we are in contact to join us by tearing up our Mobil credit cards" and returning them to the firm's office in New York.

#### SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA RAPS APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--The Synagogue Council of America, at a meeting of its plenum, adopted a resolution condemning apartheid in South Africa and Rhodesia and stated that if a tragedy is to be averted, the governments of both countries "must be persuaded to change direction rapidly toward policies based on human dignity, justice and racial conciliation before time runs out."

The Council, which is the coordinating agency for Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism, declared that "the growing violence and loss of life in South Africa have dramatized once again the injustice of white supremacy rule in that country as well as in neighboring Rhodesia. The most recent bloodshed holds the seeds of catastrophic racial war in southern Africa."

The plenum resolution expressed admiration to whites and Blacks in both countries "who have spoken out bravely and at great personal risk in condemnation of their governments' repression and injustice." It added that the Council commends the U.S. and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "for the diplomatic initiative in which they are presently engaged. We urge the Administration to adhere steadfastly to a policy that expresses clearly our country's repugnance of the racial policies of the governments of South Africa and Rhodesia."

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BUDAPEST (JTA)--The statue of a Hungarian Jew, Moritz Fisher, the creator of modern porcelain, was inaugurated last week in the city of Herend. Government members and high party officials attended the ceremony which marked the 150th anniversary of the porcelain factory he created. Fisher started the factory in 1826 and soon exported china to the British court, the Vatican and the homes of Europe's princes and kings.